

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00077 271037Z

47

ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1466

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0077

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FEB 26 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE NINETY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, CHAIRED BY FRG REP (BEHREND), BEHREND AND GDR REP (OESER) WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS. GDR REP'S STATEMENT IS BEING REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. IN HIS STATEMENT, BEHREND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN ELABORATING ON THE APPROACH UNDERLYING THE DEC 16 WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER AND IN DEALING WITH EASTERN REACTIONS TO IT THUS FAR:

A. THE NEW WESTERN OFFER ENVISAGES A MIXED PACKAGE OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT COMPONENTS ON EACH SIDE, AS THE APPROACH BEST SUITED TO BRING ABOUT AGREEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00077 271037Z

B. UNDER THE EXISTING SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WHERE THE FORCES ON EACH SIDE ARE DIFFERENT IN NUMBERS, EQUIPMENT AND STRUCTURE AND WHERE THE EAST HAS A LARGE PREPONDERANCE IN GROUND FORCES, A MECHANISTIC APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS, SUCH AS THE EASTERN ONE, WOULD PRODUCE AN INEQUITABLE OUTCOME.

C. SINCE IT WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE EXISTING GROUND FORCE INEQUALITIES, THE EASTERN APPROACH CANNOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST, WHICH HAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAT THE EASTERN GROUND FORCE PREPONDERANCE IN THE AREA MUST BE CHANGED IF THERE IS TO BE AGREEMENT.

D. THE WESTERN MIXED PACKAGE, ON THE OTHER HAND, TAKES CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES INTO ACCOUNT AND SEEKS TO TAILOR REDUCTIONS TO THE ACTUAL SECURITY SITUATION IN THE AREA SO AS TO PRODUCE AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME.

E. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MITIGATION OF THE DISPARITY IN MAIN BATTLE TANKS IS A CARDINAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE WEST.

F. ALTHOUGH WESTERN PROPOSALS HAVE PROVIDED AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR AGREEMENT FROM THE BEGINNING, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE THEIR NUCLEAR OFFER ON A ONE-TIME BASIS AS THE DECISIVE MOVE TO BRING ABOUT AGREEMENT.

G. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR BEYOND DISPUTE THAT THE TOTAL OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS THE WEST IS OFFERING OFFSETS THE LARGER GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS BEING ASKED OF THE EAST.

H. THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF US NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS IS OF THE HIGHEST MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE AND SHOULD ADEQUATELY MEET EASTERN CONCERNS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD AS SUCH IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00077 271037Z

I. THE CRUCIAL TEST FOR A REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL, WHICH THE WESTERN MIXED PACKAGE PROPOSAL FULLY MEETS, IS WHETHER REDUCTIONS AND ASSOCIATED LIMITATIONS WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME FOR BOTH SIDES AND MEET THE AGREED OBJECTIVES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

J. WHEN ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT PREVIOUSLY OFFERED

WESTERN REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS PLUS THE OFFER TO
REDUCE AND LIMIT CERTAIN US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS, AS WELL
AS EASTERN GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES, IT CANNOT BE DENIED
THAT THE WEST IS OFFERING AT LEAST AS MUCH AS IT IS
ASKING FOR FROM THE EAST.

K. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS
UNDENIABLY WOULD ENHANCE STABILITY AND STRENGTHEN SECURITY
FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE FRG STATEMENT IS BEING SENT
BY AIRGRAM. RESOR

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